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NAME

THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

GROVES

ROOTS RESEARCH BUREAU, LTD.  
BUSINESS OFFICE  
39 WEST 32 STREET  
SUITE 704  
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## THE NAME AND FAMILY OF GROVES

The name of GROVES is believed to have been derived from the residence of its first bearers at a grove, that is, a clump of trees. It is infrequently found in England and is believed to have been, for the most part, an American corruption of the name Grove, with which it was occasionally used interchangeably in early American colonial records. It appears in ancient English records in the various spellings of Grove, Grave, Greave, Graves, Greaves, and Groves, but the form last mentioned attained its popularity in this country.

Families of this name were settled at early dates in the Counties of Somerset, Buckingham, York, Wilts, Devon, Dorset, Suffolk, Worcester, Hertford, and London . It appears that they were largely of the landed gentry and yeomanry of the British Isles.

Among the earliest records of the name in England are those of Hawysa, Stephen, and Thomas atte Grove of Somersetshire about the beginning of the fourteenth century; John de Grove of Buckinghamshire in the early fourteenth century, who will

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be mentioned again; and Willelmus de Grove of Yorkshire about 1379.

The above-mentioned John de Grove of Buckinghamshire in the early fourteenth century died in the year 1353, leaving a son named Walter, who was the father of Roger, father of Hugh Grove or Groves, who was the father of an eldest son named Thomas and a younger son whose Christian name is not known but who was the father of John of Wiltshire, who married Joan Burhill and was the father by her of Thomas. This Thomas married Isabella Luyshe and had Thomas, Robert, and Lucie, of whom the second had issue by his wife, Joan Combe, of William of Wiltshire, Walter of Devonshire, Hugh of Dorsetshire, and Matthew, of whom the first married Thomasyn Mayhewe and was the father of John, William, Robert, Hugh, and numerous daughters. Of these sons of William and Thomasyn, William married Jane Borden, by whom he was the father of three daughters and a son named John; Robert was the father by his wife, Honor South, of Thomas, William, Robert, and others, of whom the first was the father by his wife, a Miss Lambert, of Robert and William, and the second was also the father of a

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son named Robert; and Hugh had issue by his wife Dorothy of a son named Hugh, who married his cousin Jane (daughter of William Grove) and was the father in the early seventeenth century of Hugh and John.

Among other early records of the family in England are those of John Grove of County Suffolk in the early sixteenth century, who was the father of John, who settled in London and had issue by his wife, Alice Dale, of Benedick, Anthony, and several daughters, of whom the son Benedick married Mary Purpit and was the father by her of Philip, John, Benedick, Samuel, Francis, John, and eight daughters; those of John Grove or Groves of Worcestershire in the early sixteenth century, who was the father of William, who had John, Thomas, William, Richard, George, and others, of whom the first was the father of Henry, William, James, and several daughters, of whom the son James was the father in the early seventeenth century of, among others, James, William, and George; and those of John Grove or Groves of Hertfordshire and Yorkshire in the latter sixteenth century, who had issue by his wife, a Miss Greenhurst, of John, Hugh, William, Thomas, and



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Anthony, of whom the first was the father of Hugh, Thomas, Benjamin, and John, while the second was the father of John and Benjamin, and the fifth was the father of a son named Thomas.

One of the first of the name in America was Philip Groves, who was living at Hartford, Conn., before 1642 and later removed to Stratford, in the same colony. By his wife Ann he is known to have had a daughter named Elizabeth and may have had other children as well, although no others are named. It is possible that John Groves, who was living at Kittery, Me., in the latter seventeenth century and married Martha Mitton, and Matthew Groves, who was living in Connecticut in the latter seventeenth century, were descended from this immigrant Philip, but their records are incomplete.

The first of the name to emigrate to Virginia were John Groves, who emigrated in 1652; Richard Groves, who resided in Lancaster County in 1653; and William Groves, who was living in Westmoreland County in 1654. No definite records, however, have been found concerning the immediate families or descendants of these early immigrants.

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Nicholas Groves came from the Isle of Jersey to Salem, Mass., about the year 1668. Some authorities state that his name was Nicholas La Groves and hold that he was of French Huguenot ancestry. In 1671 Nicholas married Hannah Sallows, by whom he was the father at Beverly, Mass., of Susanna, Nicholas, Hannah, Peter, John, and Freeborn.

John Groves or Grove emigrated from Bristol, England, to Virginia before 1673 and was possibly joined by his brother Peter and his nephew of the same name. His records, however, are not complete.

It is probable that David Groves, who was born in Frederick County, Va., in 1798, was descended from one of the before-mentioned Virginia lines, but his immediate ancestry is not known. He married Sarah Sheets and removed to Maryland and thence to Ohio, where he was the father of Mary, Sevilla, Henry, Sarah, Ann, Rebecca, and Jane.

The Groveses may be described as an energetic, conscientious, and straight-forward race, of high integrity and loyalty, and possessed of generosity, kindness and sociability.

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Among the Groveses who served as officers in the War of the Revolution were Captain William, of North Carolina, and numerous others, possibly including Captain Aaron, of Massachusetts; Captain Jonathan, of New York; Major Silvanus, of Connecticut; Lieutenants John and Ralph, of Virginia; and Lieutenant Francis, of North Carolina; although some of these are also recorded under the name of Graves.

John, Thomas, Stephen, Robert, Hugh, Anthony, Henry, George, James, Benjamin, Nicholas, Peter, and William are some of the Christian names most favored by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the many members of the family who have attained distinction in various parts of the world in more recent years are:

Anthony Norris Groves (1795-1853), of London, English missionary and author.

Joseph Asbury Groves (b. 1830, deceased), of New York, author.

Charlotte Elizabeth Groves (d. 1916), of New York, author.

Charles Edward Groves (1841-1920), of Pennsylvania and England, editor and chemist.

William Henry Groves (b. 1846), of Virginia, author.

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Charles Stuart Groves (b. 1867), of Massachusetts, historian.

Ernest William Hey Groves (b. 1872), Anglo-American, surgeon, translator, and author.

Percy Robert Clifford Groves (b. 1878), English military officer and author.

Ernest Rutherford Groves (b. 1878), American sociologist and author.

Hubert Beckwith Groves (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of Oregon, historian and author.

An ancient and well-known coat of arms of the Grove family of England, from which the Groves family of America is believed to have been descended, is that described in heraldic terms as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):

Arms.--"Ermine, on a chevron engrailed gules, three escallops argent."

Crest.--"A talbot passant sable, collared argent."

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## WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, in the dark ages long preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and at the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from scarcely more than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or given name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general groups: 1) those formed from the given name of the sire; 2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; 3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and 4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as Biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for

instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Azariah the son of Nathan, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece a daughter was named after the father, as Chryseis, daughter of Chryses; and a son's name was often an enlarged form of his father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civilization, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician took several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary designations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as the Hardy, the Sterns, the Dreadful-in-Battle; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary appellations, date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. During the reign of Edward the Confessor

(1042-1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use. By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames; "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Blacke or Brown, or some Art of Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some office, as Cooke or Butler." As late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree became effective compelling Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names that they had previously used.

As stated above, family names fall into four general classes according to their origin. One of these classes comprises surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by adding a prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son (or the contraction s), ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Irish O, or the Welsh ap. Thus the sons of John became Johnsons; the sons of William, Williamsons or Wilsons; the sons of Richard, Richardsons or Richardses; the sons of Neill, MacNeills; the sons of Herbert, FitzHerberts; the sons of Reilly, O'Reillys; and the sons of Thomas ap Thomases (ap has been drop from many names of



which it was formerly a part). There are also German, Netherlandish, Scandinavian, and other European surnames of similar formation, such as the Scandinavian names ending in sen.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. A few examples of names of this type are Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames--names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were employed in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were chiefly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), found in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim Fathers illustrate place designations. Winthrop, for instance, means "of the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; and Bradford, "a broad ford". The suffixes

"ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such English names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley and Norton.

Commencing about the time of Edward the Confessor a fourth class of surnames arose -- names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (parkkeeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were a slightly later development. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonbuilder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Some surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms that have become disguised almost beyond recognition. For instance, Troublefield was originally Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, Sinnocks and Snooks were Sevenoaks, Barrowcliff and Berrycloth were Barraclough, and Strawbridge was Stourbridge. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In the United States a greater variety of family names exists



than anywhere else in the world. Surnames in every race and nation are represented. While a substantial number are of English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and Western European origin, brought to this country by scions of families that had borne these names for generations prior to immigration, many others have come from Central and Southern Europe and the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice. Some families had no fixed surname until after their arrival in America; and in other cases emigrants from Continental Europe or their descendants have translated or otherwise modified their names. These factors contribute to the difficulties encountered by students of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names -- who trace their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, or beyond, across the seas and into the mists of antiquity--may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its initial meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that the family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, the surname grew inseparably associated with the

achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms--that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle--the name itself has become a badge of family honor. It has become the "good name" to be proud of and to protect as one's most treasured possession.

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